

## What is Peer Support?

The Peer Support Program provides a way for employees to talk confidentially about any personal or professional problems, with trained co-workers who understand.

As life happens, the issues and difficulties we face changes and the way we choose to handle life situations varies as well. For example, some people may want to turn directly to professionals. While for others, speaking to fellow peers that have “been there,” and can relate to their situations on a peer-to-peer level is preferred.

Peer Support Members are:

- Sworn (all ranks)
- Reserves
- Professional staff.

Peer support members gain the necessary training to become peer support members and volunteer their time to help other employees going through a difficult period.



**ONE BADGE.**

**UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.**

[lasdcareers.org](http://lasdcareers.org)

## How do I contact a Peer Support Program (PSP) Member?

**Call the Peer Support Program Coordinator (213) 738-3500.**

Access the listing of Peer Support Program members through the Department intranet (<http://intranet/intranet/ESS/Peer%20support.html>)

Communications with psychologists at Psychological Services Bureau (PSB) are mandated to uphold an even higher level of confidentiality.

If you do not want to speak with a peer due to a highly private or confidential issues, you can speak with a psychologist anytime at PSB (213)738-3500.

**Psychological Services Bureau (PSB)  
213-738-3500**



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**Sheriff's Department**

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## PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

A REFERENCE GUIDE



[WWW.LASD.ORG](http://WWW.LASD.ORG)



Communication between a Peer Support Program member and a Department employee is confidential except in the following circumstances:

- 1) There is a safety concern for self or others (including child abuse or dependent adult abuse);
- 2) The PSP member needs to make an appropriate referral or consult with PSB psychological staff on the concerning circumstances of the employee receiving peer support;
- 3) Disclosing the communication shared by the employee receiving peer support may reasonably prevent certain death, substantial physical harm, or commission of a crime;
- 4) The employee receiving peer support gives written authorization to disclose the confidential content from contacts with the PSP member.

*NOTE: PSP members who are supervisors have additional responsibilities above non-supervisory PSP members in that they shall also report on-duty injuries, domestic violence, workplace violence, and Policy of Equality violations.*

# PSP PROGRAM

The LASD Peer Support Program encompasses both sworn and civilian personnel, across many of the Department's various units of assignment. The Program also includes sub-specialty programs for military veterans (Vets 4 Vets) and deputies involved in shootings (OIS Team). Additionally, the Program offers a Substance Abuse Resource Program (SARP) as a vital resource for Department employees struggling with alcohol, prescription pain medication, and other substance abuse issues.



Peer Support provides a way for employees and their family members to confidentially “talk out” personal and professional problems with specially-trained co-workers who understand and want to help.

Peer Support members' primary function is to LISTEN, ASSESS and, whenever necessary, REFER to other resources (e.g., psychologists, professional counselors, substance abuse treatment, or chaplains). Peer Support should never be used as a replacement for necessary professional care; rather, Peer Support services compliment those provided by professionals from within and outside our agency. The 24 hour number to reach a Doctor on call at Psychological Services Bureau is 213-738-3500